GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5447
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
WATER POSITION OF RESERVOIRS
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water position in major reservoirs of the country continues to be critical as a monitoring group has found the level of water very low due to accumulation of silt therein;

(b) if so, whether the Government have directed the State Governments to desilt these reservoirs; and

(c) if so, the response of the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) As per the monitoring report of the Central Water Commission, 70 important major reservoirs in the country have combined designed live storage capacity of 130.553 billion cubic metre (BCM) that is 74% of storagecreated in the country. The overall storage in these reservoirs at the end of monsoon (30.09.2002) was 66.39 BCM and that on 17.04.03 was 23.78 BCM (18% of the storage capacity at FRL) against 25.74 BCM (20 percent of the storage capacity at FRL) which is the average storage of the last 10 years. Thus, it can be seen that the storage status during this year is less than the last year and less than the average storage of last 10 years. The low storage built up in the reservoir can be attributed to poor Southwest monsoon 2002. The seasonal rainfall (June-September) for the country as a whole was 19% below normal, making 2002 an all India drought year. The analysis of data collected for various reservoirs show that the sedimentation rates are not alarming. Further, it has been experienced from the surveys conducted during last three decades that the sedimentation rate in reservoirs is higher during the initial period of their operation and thereafter it falls-off significantly. Even some of the reservoirs having completed their planned life are still continuing to serve and provide substantial benefits. Thus, the apprehension about reduction in the storage of reservoirs due to excessive sedimentation is unfounded.

(b) No direction has been given to the State Governments to desilt the reservoirs.

(c) Does not arise.